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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/597,711	09/26/2006	Ove Kornelius Guttormsen	RR-630 PCT/US	5255
20427	7590	07/23/2008		
RODMAN RODMAN 10 STEWART PLACE SUITE 2CE WHITE PLAINS, NY 10603			EXAMINER AMIRI, NAHID	
			ART UNIT 3679	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/23/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

## Application No.

10/597,711

## Applicant(s)

GUTTORMSEN, OVE KORNELIUS

## Examiner

NAHID AMIRI

## Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 01 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10-14 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

In view of Applicant's Amendment received 21 April 2008, amendments to the claims have been entered. Claim 9 is canceled. Claims 1-8 and 10-14 are pending.

However, in view of Applicant's amendment and remarks on pages 1-4 of the response, it is now clear that the instant application involves 9 patentably distinct species and there is a serious burden on the examiner if each species were to continue to be prosecuted in the same application. In as much as a restriction requirement appropriate at any time before final whenever the need develops (see MPEP 811), a provisional election requirement as set forth below is now necessary.

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Restriction required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Group 1, Figs. 1a-1e; Group 2, Figs. 2a-2d; and Group 3, Figs. 3a-3e; Group 4, Figs. 4a-4e; Group 5, Figs. 5a-5h; Group 6, Figs. 6a-6e; Group 7, Fig. 7; Group 8, Figs. 81-8e; and Group 9, Figs. 9a-9e.

**Claims 1, 12, and 14**, drawn to Group 1, drawn to a joint having first and second abutment portions of the male and female components. It is considered that this first and second abutment portions 1<sup>st</sup> "special technical feature".

**Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8** drawn to Group 5, the claims 2 and 3 drawn to a device with first abutment portions having two lugs and **claim 6**, a second abutment portion of a device having a "a deflectable retaining spring" and claim 7, the device having release bar. It is considered that

the two lugs, the detectable retaining spring and release bar comprise a second “special technical feature”.

**Claims 4 and 5**, drawn to Group 4, drawn to a second abutment portion of a device having a “projecting stop”. It is considered that the projecting stop comprises a third “special technical feature”.

**Claims 10 and 11**, drawn to Group 8, drawn to each of the rail of the device having a “hook”. It is considered that the hook comprises a fourth “special technical feature”.

**Claim 13**, drawn to Group 3, drawn to the male and female components joined by a “sealing strip”. It is considered that the sealing strip comprises a fifth “special technical feature”.

A telephone call was made to Mr. Philip Rodman on July 14, 2008 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

#### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nahid Amiri whose telephone number is (571) 272-8113. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nahid Amiri  
Examiner, Art Unit 3679  
July 14, 2008

/Robert J. Sandy/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3677